Daniel and Canonization

SS 909 / HT 909
6/1/06

Today

• Daniel
• Scripture and Canonization
  – Process
  – Lists
  – Texts
• Lectionary Assignment – Recap
  – Info on Ritual assignment next week

Daniel

• Set in Babylon, written mid-2nd BCE
• Maybe named after mythic wise man Danel
• Included with Kethuvim, not prophets
• 1-6 - Stories of persecution, prophecies
• 7-12 - Four Prophetic / Historical visions
  – Depicts various kingdoms as animals
  – Ch. 12 - promise of resurrection, judgment
The Message of Apocalyptic

• The righteous suffer, but they will be rewarded and evildoers will be punished
• God has a plan
• Future reward, not in this life - Resurrection
• Hope for then and now
  – But how do we know when end comes?
  – So, remain faithful!

Apocalyptic - Apocryphal 2

• 2 Esdras (4 Ezra)
  – Written 100 CE [after 2nd temple destroyed]
  – Set in Babylon 6th century BCE [symbols!]
  – Theodicy - explanation of God’s justice
    • How can a just God allow evil?
  – Visions of future and redemption
  – Ezra’s authorship of Hebrew Bible, Apocrypha

Apocalyptic works - Non-canon

• 1 Enoch - Jewish apocalypticism
  – Pre-history, Coming Messiah (Son of Man)
  – Dreams, exhortation to faithfulness
  – Inspired rebellions, Christian apocalypticism
• 2 Enoch - Heavenly journey
  – Parallels to Christian teachings on afterlife
• Sibylline Oracles - combines Greek, Roman, Jewish thought
So what?
• Alexander brought Greek ideas - Jews faced assimilation or martyrdom
• Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha offer window into world of early Judaism - the different forms and views that developed as they faced new challenges
• Revisions of Biblical and non-canonical texts show process of change, adaptation

Canonization
• How reach consensus?
  – Helps? Hindrances?
• What criteria? How develop?

HB/LXX/OT
• Hebrew Bible
• Septuagint
• Old Testament
• Apocrypha (LXX-HB=Apocrypha)
Survey of Texts

- Aristeas / BT Megilla 9a-b
- Schiffman pp. 517-522
  – Written and Oral Law
- Eccl. 12:12
  – Of anything beyond these my child, beware.
  – Of making many books there is no end
- Qoh. Rab. 12:12 (commentary on Eccl.)
  – More than 24 books = confusion

Process / Events?

- Many dates unclear
- Hebrew Versions
- Septuagint
- Dead Sea Scrolls
- “Council” at Jamnia? Or Survival of fittest?

Issues (Anchor Bible Dictionary I:837-852)

- Canon as context
- Canon and One God
- Canon and (Hi)story
- Torah and Prophets
- One God and (Hi)story
- One God and Hagiographa
Lectionary Reflection

- What texts? Lectionary season?
- Connections?
- Implied Messages?
- New ways of reading?

Next time (June 6)

- Jewish Groups & Dead Sea Scrolls
- Read VanderKam 147-192
- Read Schiffman 266-300, 354-368
- Look for perspectives of different groups, ways they read the Bible